

-Chi Breh
-Bruce Mzgr

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TO THE WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
FM USLO PEKING

T O P S E C R E T /SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

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PEKING 66 AUGUST 10, 1974
TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: DAVID BRUCE
SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO CHAIRMAN MAO
REF: WASH 68

1. I CALLED ON CH'IAO KUAN-HUA AT 4:00 P.M. TODAY TO DELIVER PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO CHAIRMAN MAO, HAVING BEEN INFORMED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT CH'IAO HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED BY PRIME MINISTER CHOU TO RECEIVE ME. JOHN HOLDRIEGE ACCOMPANIED ME. ON CHINESE SIDE WERE CH'IAO, LIN P'ING, TING YUAN-HUNG, CHAO CH'I-HUA, AND CHANG HAN-CHINA WHO INTERPRETED.

2. CH'IAO CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BEEN DESIGNATED BY CHOU EN-LAI TO SEE ME, AFTER WHICH I SAID I HAD BEEN ASKED TO DELIVER A LETTER FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT FORD, TO CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG. I ALSO MENTIONED THAT YOU HAD SENT A LETTER TO CHOU VIA THE PROLO ABOUT THE CONTINUITY OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, NOTING PARTICULARLY THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE PRO WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED. I SAID THAT THE LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO CHAIRMAN MAO WAS GENERALLY ALONG THE SAME LINES.

3. CH'IAO ANSWERED THAT HE WISHED FIRST TO THANK ME FOR BRINGING THE LETTER AND ASSURED ME IT WOULD BE SENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE CHAIRMAN. A COPY OF THE LETTER HAD ALSO BEEN DELIVERED TO THE PROLO AND SENT TO PEKING ALONG WITH THE LETTER FROM YOU TO CHOU WHICH I HAD MENTIONED; THEREFORE, THEY ALREADY KNEW THE CONTENT. THIS WAS OUR FIRST MEETING AFTER THE CHANGES WITHIN THE U.S., AND HE WANTED ME TO CONVEY CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT FORD ON HAVING ASSUMED THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. CH'IAO RECALLED THAT HE HAD THE

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OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PRESIDENT FORD DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO CHINA IN 1972, AND "SO TO A CERTAIN EXTENT HE IS ONE OF OUR OLD FRIENDS." A NUMBER OF CH'IAO'S COLLEAGUES AT TODAY'S MEETING HAD ALSO MET THE PRESIDENT AT THAT TIME.

4. CH'IAO WENT ON TO REMARK THAT CONCERNING THE WORK OF OUR LAST PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT NIXON, PARTICULARLY IN OPENING UP SINO-U.S. RELATIONS AND ISSUING THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, THESE THINGS WERE IMPORTANT IN U.S.-PRC RELATIONS AND WOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN BY THE CHINESE NO MATTER WHAT CHANGES OCCURRED INTERNALLY IN THE U.S. I THANKED CH'IAO FOR THESE WORDS.

5. CH'IAO THEN REFERRED TO CONTENTS OF BOTH PRESIDENT FORD'S AND YOUR LETTER HAVING EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT U.S.-PRC RELATIONS WOULD BE CONTINUED IN THE SPIRIT DEMONSTRATED BY THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, AND THAT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE SPEEDED UP. THEY APPRECIATED THIS VERY MUCH, AND BELIEVED THAT RELATIONS WOULD DEVELOP ALONG THESE LINES. I AGAIN THANKED CH'IAO FOR HIS WORDS.

6. I BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF YOUR NEXT VISIT TO CHINA, AS MENTIONED IN THE LETTERS, AND CH'IAO SAID THAT THEY WERE READY TO WELCOME YOU. ON THEIR SIDE THEY HAD ALWAYS BEEN PLEASED TO RECEIVE YOU AND TO HOLD TALKS. AS FOR THE ACTUAL TIME OF YOUR VISIT, THERE WOULD BE FURTHER INTERCHANGES TO PICK A TIME CONVENIENT TO BOTH SIDES.

7. REMAINDER OF THE CONVERSATION CONSISTED OF PLEASANTRIES, WITH CH'IAO ASKING ME ABOUT MY LAST VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND COMMENTING THAT HE HAD BEEN ON THE POINT OF ASKING ME TO A DINNER WHEN HE LEARNED I HAD ALREADY LEFT PEKING. THIS, HE TOLD ME, WAS A DEBT WHICH HE INTENDED TO PAY. HE ALSO INTRODUCED ME TO CHANG HAN-CHIH AS HIS WIFE AS WELL AS HIS INTERPRETER.

8. COMMENT: THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE MEETING WERE EXCELLENT, AND I BELIEVE THE SESSION WHILE BRIEF WAS USEFUL IN ILLUSTRATING THAT THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP HERE DOES NOT APPEAR DISTURBED OVER THE CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON.

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